CLAIMS

1. Expandable styrene resin particles comprising expandable styrene resin particles containing 3 to 5.5 wt% of a highly volatile blowing agent containing 15 to 60 wt% of isopentane and having a styrene monomer content of not more than 1000 ppm, wherein the expandable styrene resin particles are coated with, based on 100 parts by weight of the resin particles, 0.2 to 0.5 parts by weight of zinc stearate containing not more than 0.1 wt% of a fatty acid sodium salt.

2. The expandable styrene resin particles according to claim 1, wherein the highly volatile blowing agent contains 30 to 60 wt% of isopentane.

3. The expandable styrene resin particles according to claim 1, wherein the highly volatile blowing agent comprises 15 to 60 wt% of isopentane, 85 to 40 wt% of n-pentane and 0 to 20 wt% of butane and/or propane.

4. The expandable styrene resin particles according any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein zinc stearate is produced by a direct method.

5. Pre-expanded particles obtained by subjecting the expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 1 to 4 to pre-expansion.

6. A molded foam obtained by subjecting the pre-

expanded particles according to claim 5 to expansion molding.

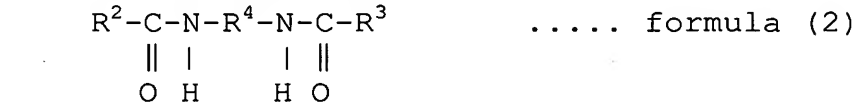
7. The molded foam according to claim 6, wherein the molded foam is a food container.

8. The molded foam according to claim 7, wherein the molded foam is a food container in accordance with the standard for hot water containers prescribed by the Food Sanitation Law in Japan.

9. Expandable styrene resin particles comprising expandable styrene resin particles containing a highly volatile blowing agent and having a styrene monomer content of not more than 1000 ppm, wherein the expandable styrene resin particles are coated with 0.01 to 0.5 parts by weight of at least one selected from the group consisting of fatty acid amides represented by the following formula (1) and fatty acid bisamides represented by the following formula (2), and 0.2 to 0.5 parts by weight of a fatty acid metal salt based on 100 parts by weight of the resin particles:

..... formula (1)

wherein R^1 is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group; and



..... formula (2)

wherein R^2 and R^3 are a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group and R^4 is a divalent aliphatic hydrocarbon group or aromatic hydrocarbon group, provided that R^2 and R^3 may be the same or different.

10. The expandable styrene resin particles according to claim 9, wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon groups R^1, R^2 and R^3 in the formulas (1) and (2) have 7 to 23 carbon atoms.

11. The expandable styrene resin particles according to claim 10, wherein the aliphatic hydrocarbon groups R^1, R^2 and R^3 in the formulas (1) and (2) have 17 carbon atoms.

12. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the hydrocarbon group R^4 in the formula (2) has 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

13. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein at least one kind of fatty acid amide represented by the formula (1) and fatty acid bisamide represented by the following formula (2) is stearic acid amide and/or ethylene bis stearic acid amide.

14. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein at least one kind of fatty acid amide represented by the formula (1) and fatty acid bisamide represented by the

following formula (2) is ethylene bis stearic acid amide.

15. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 14, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is produced by a direct method.

16. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 15, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is zinc stearate.

17. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 16, wherein the content of the highly volatile blowing agent is 3 to 6 wt%.

18. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 17, wherein the highly volatile blowing agent contains 15 to 60 wt% of isopentane.

19. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 18, wherein the highly volatile blowing agent comprises 15 to 60 wt% of isopentane, 85 to 40 wt% of n-pentane and 0 to 20 wt% of butane and/or propane.

20. The expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 19, which have a particle size of 0.2 to 0.6 mm.

21. Pre-expanded particles obtained by subjecting the expandable styrene resin particles according to any one of claims 9 to 20 to pre-expansion.

22. A molded foam obtained by subjecting the pre-expanded particles according to claim 21 to expansion molding.

23. The molded foam according to claim 22, wherein the molded foam is a food container.

24. The molded foam according to claim 23, wherein the molded foam is a food container in accordance with the standard for hot water containers prescribed by the Food Sanitation Law in Japan.